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"A HAPPY New Year to all."

THE Democrat published its "big paper" yesterday as previously advertised. It weighed nearly a pound.

SOME of the eastern papers are proclaiming a man in Elmira, N. Y., with a skin one inch in thickness. This man is not David B. Hill.

THE indications for Lower Michigan point to rain, turning into snow in the west; high and variable winds becoming northwest; cold wave. Upper Michigan: Clearing; cold wave; northwest gales.

MASSACHUSETTS did well last year. Over 1,600 twins were born in the state; there were several sets of triplets; there were 29,858 marriages; the birth rate was 26 to the 1,000; the death rate was less than 20 to the 1,000; and the majority of births were of the male persuasion.

TEXAS is a lively scramble going on among the United States senators for the place on the committee on appropriations made vacant by the death of Senator Plumb. The committee is one with almost autocratic powers and is watched very jealously by all on the outside.

A DETROIT exchange says there is a growing opinion that some cash as well as an expert accountant is needed to straighten out that city's financial muddle. That was the situation in Grand Rapids at one time, and the suspicion afterwards grew to be a certainty.

THE contest for senator from Kansas to succeed the late Senator Plumb seems to have narrowed down to two men. One of these is Mayor J. K. Hudson, editor of the "Topeka Daily Capital," the other is ex-Representative B. W. Perkins, at present practicing law in Washington. The indications are that Mayor Hudson will be elected.

SOME dispatches seem to indicate that the people of Texas, or a part of them along the border, are giving active sympathy to the revolutionist Garza and his followers. If this be true, the national government should lose no time in putting a stop to it. The Mexican government is very friendly and is a natural ally of ours. The people of Texas and along the border on both sides should be made to understand that neutrality laws must be obeyed.

DETROIT'S latest sensational rocket has come down like a stick. Wm. W. Hannan went to Port Huron on business but forgot to telephone his intention to all the newspapers. The papers suspected murder, abduction, elopement and a variety of other mishaps and published their suspicions as realities. Mr. Hannan protests that he is alive and kicking and demands a journalistic resuscitation. Those Detroit fellows are easily rattled.

THE statement that this government intended to settle the Mafia trouble by payment of an indemnity is denied at Washington. The report came from Rome by way of London. The denial reminds us of the old advice, "Never believe anything you hear, and only half you see." The men at the head of our government are wise enough to manage such affairs in the best ways possible, and the rest of the country may abide the outcome with tranquility.

THE neatest, most artistic and commendable press publication in the state was the New Year's Muskegon News. It was issued in four-column size, twenty-four pages, and with a cover. The illustrations were nearly one hundred in number and they were half-tone photogravures of the highest class of excellence. The publishers are to be congratulated upon their fine souvenir edition, for although less voluminous than some, it is far superior to any newspaper ever published in this city.

THE senatorial contest at Columbus is waxing hot, and the Foraker organs throughout Ohio are crying, "Bribery," "Down with the Sherman machine," etc., etc. The friends of the ex-governor claim that they now have votes enough pledged to their favorite to insure the defeat of Senator Sherman, should that statesman secure the vote of every representative yet on the doubtful list. They charge that the administration and all its friends from the top to the bottom of the list are actively and aggressively at work for Sherman. This, of course, does not include Secretary Blaine, as the same authority says there is a full and complete understanding that the administration is to receive the Ohio delegation to Minneapolis in return for the re-election of Sherman. Sherman and Foraker are both on the ground, and it is possible that time will prove that the Foraker friends have counted noses too quickly. Senator John Sherman has held his present office four times, twenty-four years, but never before has been obliged to make a contest for his election. It remains to be seen how successful he will be in a political fight of this kind. Ex-Governor Foraker, on the other hand, will be in his element; the enthusiasm of his friends is of the enthusiastic effervescent sort, and the Sherman forces will need to be on the alert at every corner. Secretary Foster, it is claimed, is working for Sherman, and the Foraker leaders have already called attention to the possibility of the distinguished secretary coming in as a dark horse. Whatever the result of the election, it is pretty certain that the delegation to Minneapolis will not be solid for the administration.

NEWS comes from Persia that a revolt is imminent. The feeling of the poorer classes is intense against the government, and fears are entertained that the "last straw" may be put upon them at any minute. An Englishman living at Teheran gives reason for this state of affairs as follows: "The shah is nearly played out. He drinks a bottle of brandy a day. He consumes hashish and opium freely. No weight can be attached to any rumors of reform proceeding from his majesty or his present ministers. The shah's butler, the son of his cook, the grandson of a slave bought for £10 in the open market, is now sole and irresponsible grand vizier. In Persia there is no law and not a single court of justice. No enterprise is possible. No one dares own that he is rich. The rich bury their wealth. They are seized, tortured, imprisoned. In many cases they die without revealing their treasure. All that is respectable in Persia stands aloof, goes into exile or hides away to escape the intolerable degradation and misery of the times."

THE policy of ignoring the existence of foreign powers because of our geographical situation was well enough for the days of Washington, but when one can circle the globe in seventy-two days and when a hostile army of 100,000 men can be landed on our shores within a week it is time for a change. The government is fast awakening to the fact that in this day of rapid transit isolation from foreign powers is impracticable and impossible. Measures for offensive warfare are being rapidly evolved in the naval department and coast defenses will be the next to receive attention. Although the United States stands abreast with the greatest powers of the earth she has been obliged to submit to repeated insults from the merest weaklings because they possessed one or two powerful iron clads and the government had no marine worth mentioning. The Chilian affair has opened the eyes of the nation to this dangerous weakness, and for that reason it is something to be grateful for.

KEEP OFF THE TRACKS.

The number of people who have been killed while walking railroad tracks would seem to necessitate the passage of a law making track walking a misdemeanor, and subjecting all who indulge in it to a heavy fine. There is such a law in most of the European countries, and it undoubtedly has much to do with the fact that their percentage of death-by-the-rail is lower than our own. Perhaps such a law would not keep people from walking the tracks. It's hard to tell what kind of influence a man would be susceptible to who will deliberately undertake to do a thing for which he knows the penalty may be death. If he doesn't care to dodge the death penalty, what would the chance of arrest and fine mean to him? Many of the people who are killed in this way are mutes. It does not seem that it would require much argument to convince a mute that he should keep away from a track. Children should be impressed from their earliest years with the dangers of it, and men and women should not let their love of excitement run away with them, but should be willing to abide by the experience of others, and avoid the tracks even if by so doing they have to go "the longest way 'round.'"

AMUSEMENTS.

Geary's World's Museum.

At this home of innocent amusement for the ensuing week, Manager Geary announces a monster list of curios and stage attractions, any one of which would be a feature in itself. Miss Belle Carter, the lady with the wonderful growth of horses hair growing along the spinal column, between the shoulder blades, will no doubt prove the attracting feature of the week, especially so among the scientists and medical fraternity, as she is the latest, greatest and most startling caprice of nature. Tex Bender, the wild, wooly cow-boy fiddler will be a most amusing addition to the Geary's annex. Mr. Thos. F. Mack, who made every one laugh last week, says he will make every one shudder and look solemn this week. Prof. Hays, the Punch and Judy manipulator, will introduce his family of wooden heads. The entertainment in the theatre will be bigger and better than any previous week, and will be given by the following well known artists: The Four Fitzpatrick family and merry makers in their repertoire of music and mimicry, introducing their original yankee sketch, "Reuben Chandler."

Ed Lonette, the world's greatest big shoe dancer—shoes six feet long—and Ed and Louise Lonette, with their enchanting hands, introducing a novelty positively new and highly entertaining. "The Arcaris," Mexican knife throwers, and their thrilling impaling act are simply blood curdling. Mr. Arcaris, at a distance of twenty feet dexteriously pinions his sister with sharp knives and hatchets to a huge board without fear of injury. "The Swiss Bell Ringers," a genuine foreign novelty, will render some excellent music. All in all it will be the biggest show of the season.

WITH MUSIC AND DANCING

The St. Cecilia Ladies Replenish Their Treasury.

The St. Cecelia dress ball, so long under contemplation, occurred at the Morton house last night.

Preparatory to the reception of the guests, Landlord Boyd Pantland caused a transformation to take place in and about the parlors, hallways and dining rooms. In the main parlor the fireplace was banked with holly, palms and evergreens. Accross the top, neatly worked in flowers was "St. Cecelia." The private parlor was suitably decorated with holly and smilax. In the corners were tropical plants. On each side of the hallway leading to the dance hall, placed at regular intervals, were foliage and plants. To the old dining room was added the recently acquired space of the annex. A large expanse of canvas covered the floor. On the west side the sideboards were collected and decorated. In the north end of the annex, covering the fireplace, was a mass of holly. Here and there, representing the petals of lilys, were miniature incandescent lights of different sizes. The chandeliers were made resplendent with polishing, and the blue-tinted globes spread a soft light, which added to the effect of the richly frescoed walls. The hangers were interwoven with holly and smilax, and overhead a huge wreath, composed of palms and smilax, was one of the attractive features.

No semblance of a dining hall remained. Everything was covered up, and a more entrancing sight would be hard to find.

That which elicited the most praise was the newly-completed ordinary to the left of the entrance of the hall. An accommodating table was placed in the center, around the edging of which was laid a spray of smilax. The walls are elaborately finished in cardinal silk plush. The draperies are blue silk plush, and the ceiling is painted in silver and gold.

From one end to the other the second floor of the Morton was a palace fit for a king.

About 8:30 o'clock the guests began to arrive in carriages and from that time until 9:30, there was a perpetual stream of people pouring into the hotel. The gentlemen all appeared in the conventional dress suit and the ladies were clad in fine gowns made especially for the occasion. After disposing of their wraps the throng mingled and the sterner sex subscribed their names to numbers on the programs of the ladies.

Wurzburg & Bronson's orchestra played an overture, directly following which the grand march occurred. Charles Fox acted as director and Charles McQuewan led. With measured tread the gay concourse marched about the hall forming pretty figures and executing serpentines which fairly dazzled the beholder. Then came the waltz. It was expected that the stately fathers and mothers would drop out of line, but not so. With a sprightliness which was amazing they tripped away to the delightful strains of the orchestra. In no instance did youth outshine age. When all were on the floor the number reached 200, but so commodious was the space allotted that the customary, disagreeable crowding was conspicuous by its absence.

In the ordinary, coffee only was served, and at frequent intervals the participators in the festivities regaled themselves. In the rotunda tables were spread and the formal lunch was served there. While the dancers did not exceed 200, Mr. Pantlind found it necessary to spread 300 covers.

Many of the dresses worn by the ladies were gorgeous in the extreme. The St. Cecelia ball was a success in every particular, and it was nearly three o'clock before the last tired couple left the hotel.

The ball was given for the purpose of raising money, which will be expended towards constructing a temple of music. The building will be erected on the lot adjoining the Ladies' Literary club building on Sheldon street.

To what extent their treasury was embursed is not yet known, though it is quite sure that a large sum will be realized.

Towed a Schooner to Green Bay.

GREEN BAY, Wis., Jan. 1.—The tug Leatham D. Smith, with the schooner Winslow in tow, arrived in this port at 4 o'clock this afternoon, having left Escanaba yesterday morning at 11 o'clock. Considerable ice was encountered in Green Bay and at this port, but the tug succeeded in getting through all right. The Kate Winslow will take on a cargo of wheat at the Cargill Bros. elevator.

Killed by Carelessness.

SOUTH PUEBLO, Colo., Jan. 1.—Two Union Pacific passenger trains running on the Rio Grande road, between Trinidad and Pueblo, collided this evening near Larimer. Fireman Grubb was killed, and an engineer, brakeman and two mail clerks were dangerously hurt. The agent at Graneros failed to deliver orders.

Locomotive Engineering.

An advance copy of the "Locomotive Engineering" has been received. The paper is devoted to the interests of the motive power and rolling stock departments of American railways and is edited by August Sinclair and John A. Hill.

Governor Hill Banqueted.

ALBANY, Jan. 1.—The farewell banquet of the state officers to Gov. Hill occurred and was a most elaborate affair.

Ruling Figures.

"What are jokes bringing now?" he asked, as he entered the editor's office with some bulky envelopes under his arm.

"It depends on their nature, sir," replied the urbane editor. "We'd have to charge you seventy-five cents a line for ice cream jokes, for instance."—Truth.

Some Doubt About It.

Cholly—You seem all broken up, old chap.

Chappie—Yaas.

Cholly—What is the mattah?

Chappie—I don't know, I am suah; but my man says he thinks I am in love.—New York Life.

Didn't Suit Her.

Briggs—I see that Granby had to send back the marble statue of his wife that he ordered.

Griggs—Why? Didn't she like it?

Briggs—No; she wanted one made wearing a sealskin cloak.—Cloak Review.

In the Same Boat.

A beggar in rags and tatters held out his hand to a "gommeux" who was stepping out of the door of his club.

"Out of work! Done nothing the last twelve months! Your honor knows what that means!"—Frankfurter Zeitung.

An Electrical Refusal.

May—Your last suitor, Mr. Watt, seems very magnetic.

Belle—Yes, I gave him both poles.

May—What do you mean?

Belle—A positive negative.—Truth.

Predestination.

Clubberly (at the club)—That's the worst waiter I ever saw. I wonder where such an idiot came from?

Shiffer—I know where he is going to.—New York Sun.

One You Eat

Heartily, with relish, and without distress afterward? If not, we recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla, which creates a good appetite and so tones the stomach and bowels that the food is properly digested and assimilated.

SPRING & COMPANY'S

GIGANTIC

CLEARANCE SALE!

Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars worth of seasonable and desirable Dry Goods, Carpets, etc., to be closed out at this great sale. We offer special bargains in every department throughout our store. SPRING & COMPANY.

IMMENSE REDUCTIONS ON DRESS PATTERNS

Dress Patterns reduced from	$3 00	to	$1 95.
Dress Patterns reduced from	4 00	to	2 75.
Dress Patterns reduced from	5 50	to	3 75.
Dress Patterns reduced from	6 50	to	4 25.
Dress Patterns reduced from	7 50	to	4 75.
Dress Patterns reduced from	8 50	to	5 75.
Dress Patterns reduced from	9 00	to	6 25.
Dress Patterns reduced from	10	to	7 75.
Dress Patterns reduced from	12	to	8 50.
Dress Patterns reduced from	15	to	10 50.
Dress Patterns reduced from	18	to	12 50.
Dress Patterns reduced from	20	to	14 50.
Dress Patterns reduced from	25	to	18 75.

Extraordinary Values in Silks.

15 pcs 24 inch Black Gros Grain Silk at 79c per yard.
15 pcs 24 inch Black Gros Grain Silk at 91c per yard.
18 pcs 24 inch Black Gros Grain Silk at $1 07 per yard.
16 pcs 24 inch Black Gros Grain Silk at 1 19 per yard.
24 inch Black Gros Grain Silk at 1 39 per yard.
One lot of Colored Bengaline Silks, all colors, at 69c per yard.
Special values in Faille Francais Silk, full widths, at 78c, 92c, $1.05, $1.17, $1.36 and $1.47.
Inspect our line of Black Satin Rhadema and note the low prices.
24 inch Black Satin Rhadema at 89c.
Black Satin Rhadema at 97c.
Black Satin Rhadema at $1 12.
Black Satin Rhadema at 1 22.
Black Satin Rhadema at 1 41.
Black Satin Rhadema at 1 54.

Immense Reductions on Cloaks.

Witness the Great Cut—No Mercy Shown this Department.

Ladies' Jackets reduced from	$ 8 00	to	$ 4 75.
Ladies' Jackets reduced from	10	to	7 25.
Ladies' Jackets reduced from	12	to	8 25.
Ladies' Jackets reduced from	15	to	10 50.
Ladies' Jackets reduced from	18	to	12 50.
Ladies' Jackets reduced from	20	to	14 00.
Ladies' Jackets reduced from	25	to	16 50.

Upwards of 2,000 garments will be closed out within the next thirty days "previous to inventory."

THESE AT HALF PRICE.

We propose to close out our entire line of Furs and quote the following low prices:

French Seal Capes,	$10.00	reduced from	$20.00.
Black Astrachan Capes,	10.00	" "	20.00.
" " "	12.50	" "	25.00.
" Persian "	9.00	" "	18.00.
Canadian Wool Seal Capes	8.00	" "	16.50.
Black Hare Capes,	2.50	" "	5.00.
" Coney "	3.00	" "	6.00.
Nutria Capes,	7.50	" "	15.00.
Black Monkey Capes,	12.50	" "	25.00.

The balance of our stock of Muffs at greatly reduced prices.

Sweeping Reductions in Blankets and Comfortables

We place on sale to-day an enormous stock of blankets and comfortables at the lowest prices ever quoted for desirable Goods.

Full 10-4 Blankets Grey and White at 60c per pair.
Full 10-4 Blankets Grey and White at 92c per pair.
Full 10-4 Blankets White at $1 25 per pair.
Full 10-4 Blankets White at $1 75 per pair.
Full 10-4 Blankets White at $2 20 per pair.
Full 10-4 Blankets White at $2 45 per pair.
Full 10-4 Blankets White at $2 62 per pair.
Full 10-4 Blankets White at $3 25 per pair
Full 11-4 Blankets White at $3 75 per pair.
Full 11-4 Blankets White at $4 00 per pair.
Full 11-4 Blankets White at $4 67 per pair.

COMFORTABLES.

10 Bales Comfortables 38c.	5 Bales at $1 39.	3 Bales at $2 37 1-2.
5 Bales at 58c.	5 Bales at $1 68.	3 Bales at $2 50.
5 Bales at 72c.	5 Bales at $1 95.	3 Bales at $2 75.
5 Bales at 98c.	5 Bales at $2 12 1-2.	3 Bales at $3 00.
5 Bales at $1 12 1-2.		

DOMESTIC DEPARTMENT

We offer tremendous inducements in Cotton and Sheetings.
9,000 yards Prints, good quality, at 3c per yard.
10,000 yards Brown Sheeting at 4c per yard.
Everything in this department at great reductions.

NOTE—Our 18th Annual Linen Sale will occur during the month of January, timely notice of which will be given in both local and various state papers. SPRING & COMPANY